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SOIL AND WATER

# CONSERVATION



Growth Through Agricultural Progress

## A QUARTER CENTURY VIGNETTE

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

OCT 22 1962

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

### ILL FARED THE LAND

The vast grasslands of the dry Plains, exposed to the high winds by the plows of homesteaders and overgrazed by livestock, rebelled in the Thirties.....

For the first time in the memory of man dust storms blew 2000 miles eastward over the Nation's Capital and 200 miles out to sea leaving behind havoc.....dust storms



SD-5066



..... abandoned farms, desolate land

Tex-14556

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, Soil Conservation Service Picture Story No.145 August 1962

Magazines and newspapers may obtain glossy prints of these photographs in any size up to 8x10 from the Photography Division, Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. Others may purchase prints in any size from the same address. Prints in 8x10 size are \$1.10 each.



## THESE WERE THE LEAN YEARS

In other areas, rains cut deep gullies into the rolling land. Once clear waters of streams and lakes became choked and filled with silt. Roads and highways were damaged and entire communities were devastated by floods.....

The land was troubled. No one felt it more than the farmers and ranchers whose once fertile land was becoming more and more unproductive with each succeeding rain and wind-storm.....



....overcropped lands were gullied

Cal-4182



....fertile valleys were flooded

Wn-90240

....sheet erosion was rampant

NM-103





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NM-10308



Go-D2-7

## MAN OF THE SOIL

In the footsteps of Pinchot, 'man of the forest,' came a man of the soil. A man and an idea. The man was Hugh Bennett and the idea was soil conservation. They had come together in an eroded field in Virginia on a spring day in 1905. Bennett's life-long crusade began to bear fruit.....

....demonstrations paved the way

La-30095



....CCC men plant tree seedlings on terraced hillsides

Pa-129



....SCS technician aids farmers

Ida-106



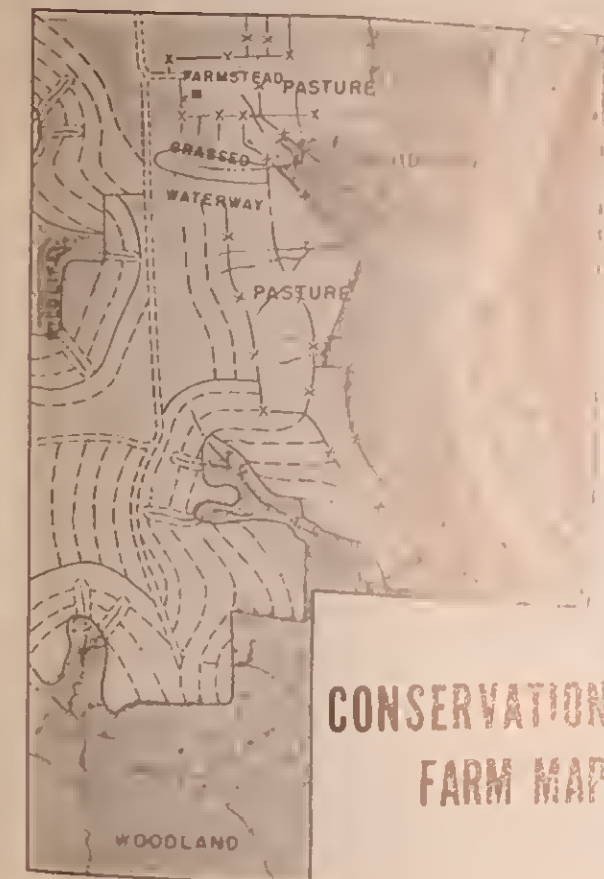
## MEN OF THE SOIL

Grassroots leadership, local control, and direction through State-authorized soil conservation districts emerged as the means of carrying on a National conservation program on private lands on a cooperative basis.....

Today there are more than 2,900 districts covering about 1.7 billion acres of land and 3.6 million farms. Voluntary cooperators number 1.9 million. Districts are now well equipped to coordinate and make effective conservation activities on all land.....

.....a new conservation tool

Dn-2026



.....farmers vote for district

Mich-60093



district supervisors in action.

78100



## AFTER 25 YEARS

Over the past quarter century, new technical and scientific knowledge has broadened the concept of soil conservation. New programs have made it possible to get conservation measures on the land at an accelerated pace.

There is still much work remaining. Two-thirds of the privately owned land still needs protection. The Thirties taught the consequences of neglect. The Sixties offer unlimited opportunities.

Modern soil and water conservation has come to mean . . . . .



Wis-1352

. . . . protection of all land from wind and water erosion

. . . . land management on entire small watersheds

Minn-1734



R1-302

. . . . recreation, fish and wildlife development



Tex-49817

. . . . a program tailor-made for the Great Plains



Vo-W-42

. . . . adequate water to support new industry -- an aid to rural development